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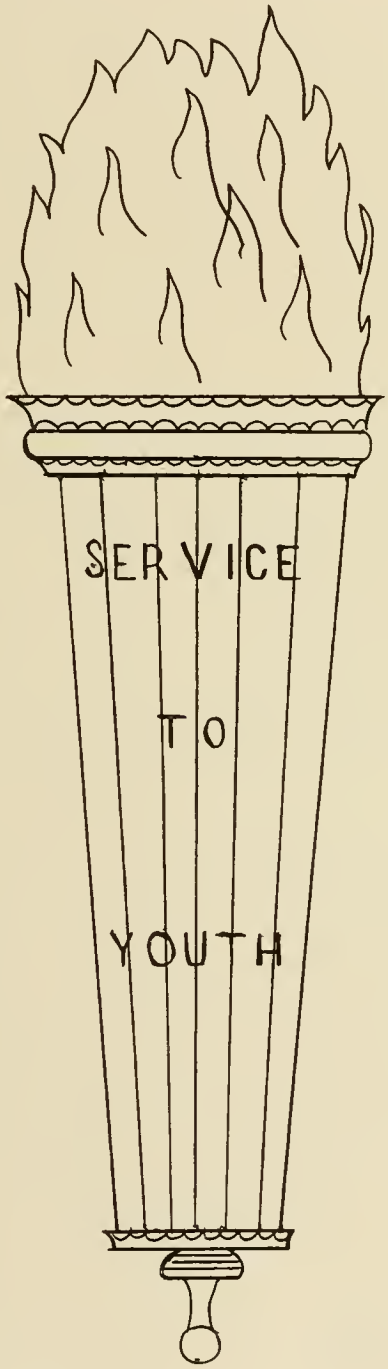
CHARACTERISTICS OF 436 COMMITTED CHILDREN IN THE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL AND MONTANA CHILDREN'S CENTER ON MAY 2, 1966



Vocational School for Girls

Don Robel, Superintendent

State Industrial School

Don T. Holladay, Superintendent

Aftercare Service

John G. Thomas, Director

Montana Children's Center

Joseph M. Balkovatz, Superintendent

July, 1966

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Director's Foreward

For many years people have been requesting types of information which we have been unable to provide concerning our programs in the juvenile institutions in Montana. In other words, more adequate analyses of the effectiveness of programs have been desired, as have studies of the types of individuals received and length of stay within the institutions. The department, too, has desired this information in order to guide us in the administration of departmental operations.

This report covers some of the characteristics of the children committed to the department's care and will be reported annually in May of each year. May was selected because it is the month which reflects the peak resident load of the juvenile institutions.

Our next report will include information relative to children released and rate of return upon release, which unfortunately we are not able to report at this time.

Obviously, it will take time to develop this administrative research program as fully as we know it should be, and to maintain it at the level necessary to produce the most useful analyses and reports of the institutional programs. Budgetary requests are being submitted to the legislature to enable further development of statistical research in juvenile programming.

Floyd A. Green, Director
Department of Institutions

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This is Montana's first characteristic study of those children committed to the Vocational School for Girls, State Industrial School and the Montana Children's Center. This report furnishes information that many people have been requesting which we have been unable to provide concerning our juvenile programs and population in the past. This is the first report and it will take some time to develop this administrative research program as fully as we know it should be.

Important characteristic factors which are reviewed in this paper include age, sex, county of residence, reasons for commitment, length of stay, etc. The statistics presented in this report are based on the reporting date of May 2, 1966.

The Revised Codes of Montana establish the location and functions of the Vocational School for Girls and the State Industrial School:

> Location and functions of schools. The state vocational school for girls is the institution located in Helena and has as its primary function the care, education, training, treatment and rehabilitation of girls ten (10) years of age or older and under twenty-one (21) years of age who are committed to the school by a court as provided by law. The state industrial school is the institution located in Miles City and has as its primary function the care, education, training, treatment and rehabilitation of boys ten (10) years of age or older and under twenty-one (21) years of age who are committed to the school by a court as provided by law.[1]

The Montana Children's Center location and function is likewise established in the Revised Codes of Montana:

> Location and function of center. The institution located at Twin Bridges is the "Montana Children's Center." The primary function of the center is the support and care of dependent or neglected children as defined in section 10-501, R.C.M. 1947, who require separation from their families or foster families or for whom foster care cannot be obtained.[2]

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1. Montana Revised Codes (1947) Sec. 80-2201
2. Ibid Sec. 80-2101

Age and Sex at Time of Commitment

An understanding of age and sex factors will contribute measurably to planning for the comprehensive program for our juveniles. Age being defined as an index of the individual's life experience and the sex of the individual indicating differing psychological and sociological environments.

The data on Table I show the percentage distribution of age at admission. The median age for boys at the State Industrial School was 15.2 and for the Girls Vocational School it was 15.3. Data for the Montana Children's Center showed median age for boys was 10.1 and 11.5 for girls.

It is important to know at what age juveniles are being committed and if significant changes are taking place in commitment ages. It is recognized that the earlier the treatment with relation to the point of social disequilibrium the more effective our efforts will become.

TABLE I

AGE	ALL COMMITTED CHILDREN		STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL		VOCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS		MONTANA CHILDREN'S CENTER			
							BOYS		GIRLS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	436	100	202	100	59	100	93	100	82	100
1	3	.7					3	3.2	-	-
2	5	1.1					3	3.2	2	2.4
3	2	.5					1	1.1	1	1.2
4	3	.7					2	2.1	1	1.2
5	7	1.6					4	4.3	3	3.7
6	9	2.0					3	3.2	6	7.3
7	9	2.0					6	6.5	3	3.7
8	12	2.8					6	6.5	6	7.3
9	17	3.9					9	9.7	8	9.8
10	19	4.4	5	2.5			8	8.6	6	7.3
11	22	5.0	7	3.5			4	4.3	11	13.4
12	42	9.6	11	5.4	7	11.9	15	16.1	9	11.0
13	46	10.6	21	10.4	7	11.9	10	10.8	8	9.8
14	78	17.9	42	20.8	15	25.4	11	11.8	10	12.2
15	87	20.0	61	30.2	15	25.4	7	7.5	4	4.9
16	47	10.8	39	19.3	6	10.2	-	-	2	2.4
17	23	5.3	15	7.4	8	13.5				
18	1	.2	1	.5						
Not Reported	4	.9			1	1.7	1	1.1	2	2.4
Median	14.3		15.2		15.3		10.1		11.5	

Race of Juveniles

Racial distribution of residents by institution is shown in Table II.

Data from the survey of the State Industrial School conducted on May 1, 1964, showed 69.02 percent of the population on this date were Caucasian and 23.50 were Indian. On May 2, 1966, data revealed that 61.4 percent were Caucasian and 29.2 were Indian. The Vocational School for Girls had the highest number of Indian residents - 66.1 percent on May 2, 1966.

TABLE II

RACE	ALL COMMITTED CHILDREN		STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL		VOCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS		MONTANA CHILDREN'S CENTER			
							BOYS		GIRLS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	436	100	202	100	59	100	93	100	82	100
Caucasian	235	54.0	124	61.4	18	30.5	48	51.6	45	54.8
Mexican	18	4.1	16	7.9	1	1.7	-	-	1	1.2
Indian	172	39.4	59	29.2	39	66.1	39	41.9	35	42.8
Negro	3	.7	3	1.5	-		-		-	
Other	-		-		-		-		-	
Not Reported	8	1.8	-		1	1.7	6	6.5	1	1.2

Living Arrangement at Time of Commitment

The living arrangement has an important relationship to the delinquent problem. Major studies consistantly indicate that delinquency is more prevalent in children deprived of one or in some instances both parents. The living arrangements in Table III are those of the child in the juvenile institutions as of May 2, 1966.

According to the 1960 census of Montana,[1] 90.1 percent of children under 18 years of age were living with both parents. In our evaluation of commitment statistics into the noted institutions, we find that 44.7 percent of all committed children came from this group that habitated with both parents.

We find that out of the total population under 18 living with both parents, there were 195 out of 235,653 who were committed to juvenile institutions. This gives a commitment ratio of .8 per thousand. Out of the total under 18 living with one or less of their parents, we have 241 out of 25,905 committed for a commitment ratio of 9.3 per thousand. However, statistical evidence supports the fact that there is an increase in the number of committed boys from homes living with both parents. Although evident that an unaffected home life does offer stability to the child, there is indication that an increase in delinquency is occurring in this group.

TABLE III

LIVING ARRANGEMENT	ALL COMMITTED CHILDREN		STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL		VOCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS		MONTANA CHILDREN'S CENTER			
							BOYS		GIRLS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	436	100	202	100	59	100	93	100	82	100
Both Parents	107	24.5	60	29.7	11	18.6	20	21.5	16	19.5
Mother	88	20.2	35	17.4	20	33.9	20	21.5	13	15.8
Father	32	7.3	10	4.9	3	5.1	10	10.8	9	11.0
Mother and Stepfather	68	15.6	40	19.8	9	15.2	11	11.8	8	9.8
Father and Stepmother	20	4.6	16	7.9	1	1.7	2	2.2	1	1.2
Foster Home	37	8.5	6	3.0	4	6.8	10	10.8	17	20.7
Other Family Home	53	12.2	17	8.4	8	13.6	15	16.1	13	15.9
Institution	16	3.7	12	5.9	2	3.4	1	1.1	1	1.2
Other	7	1.6	4	2.0	1	1.7	2	2.1	-	
Not Reported	8	1.8	2	1.0	-		2	2.1	4	4.9

1. U. S. Bureau of Census, U.S. Census of Population: 1960, General Population Characteristics, Montana, Final Report P.C. (1) 28C p.28-95

General Intelligence

Recent studies have found there is little difference between the general intelligence of delinquents and non-delinquents. The number and proportion of juveniles in the institutions on May 2, 1966, is listed by general intelligence in Table IV.

The media general intelligence score for boys at the State Industrial School (97) was higher than for girls at the Vocational School (92). The opposite was true at the Montana Children's Center with the girls median score as (97) and for boys (92).

Tables V, VI, and VII show attained grades and achieved grades by institutions for reading and arithmetic. This information was not available from the Vocational School for Girls.

TABLE IV

INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENT	ALL COMMITTED CHILDREN		STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL		VOCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS		MONTANA CHILDREN'S CENTER			
							BOYS		GIRLS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	436	100	202	100	59	100	93	100	82	100
Below 60			-		-		-		-	
60 - 69	15	3.4	8	3.9	4	6.8	2	2.1	1	1.2
70 - 79	43	9.9	17	8.4	6	10.2	13	14.0	7	8.5
80 - 89	74	17.0	31	15.3	5	8.5	23	24.7	15	18.3
90 - 99	129	29.6	60	29.7	14	23.7	29	31.2	26	31.7
100 - 109	107	24.5	47	23.3	18	30.5	20	21.5	22	26.8
110 - 119	35	8.0	23	11.4	3	5.1	3	3.2	6	7.3
120 - 129	8	1.8	6	3.0	1	1.7	1	1.1	-	
130 -Over	4	1.0	4	2.0	-		-		-	
Not Reported	21	4.8	6	3.0	8	13.5	2	2.2	5	6.2
Median	95		97		91		92		97	

Number of committed boys residing at the State Industrial School on May 2, 1966, classified by previous school grade and by achievement grades in reading and arithmetic.

TABLE V

Previous Grade	Total	Achievement Grade												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Not Rep.
							Reading							
Total	202		2	4	7	11	15	16	22	14	12	6		93
1														
2														
3	1		1											
4	5			1	3		1							
5	7			1	1		3		1					1
6	18			1		4	4	3	5		1			
7	30		1	1		4	3	5	4	2	5	2		3
8	61					3	4	4	4	4	2	3		37
9	39				1			4	7	5	1	1		20
10	19								1	3	1			14
11	11										1			10
12	6													6
UK	5				2						1			2
							Arithmetic							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	N.R.
Total	202			2	9	7	15	19	24	14	10	3	2	97
1														
2														
3	1				1									
4	5				4	1								
5	7			1	1		3	1						1
6	18				1	2	5	5	4	1				
7	30					3	3	6	6	3	4		1	4
8	61				1	1	2	3	5	6	2			41
9	39						2	4	8	1	3	2		19
10	19								1	1	1	1	1	14
11	11									1				10
12	6													6
UK	5			1	1					1				2

Number of committed girls residing at the Montana Children's Center classified by previous school grade and by achievement grades in reading and arithmetic.

TABLE VI

Previous Grade	Total	Achievement Grade												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Not Rep.
		Reading												
Total	81		1	4	4	7	9	10	12	6	2			26
1														
2	2		1	1										
3	5			1	1	2		1						
4	5				1	2	2							
5	7				1		2	2	1	1				
6	10			1		2	3	1	3					
7	10					1		5	1	3				
8	10				1		1	1	4	1	2			
9	10													10
10	4													4
11	4													4
12	4													4
UK	10			1			1		3	1				4
		Arithmetic												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	N.R.
Total	81		1	4	5	9	9	15	9	2	1			26
1														
2	2		1	1										
3	5			2	3									
4	5			1		3	1							
5	7					3	2	2						
6	10					1	3	5		1				
7	10						2	6	2					
8	10				1	1	1	1	5		1			
9	10													10
10	4													4
11	4													4
12	4													4
UK	10				1	1		1	2	1				4

Number of committed boys residing at Montana Children's Center May 2, 1966, classified by previous school grade and by achievement grades in reading and arithmetic.

TABLE VII

Previous Grade	Total	Achievement Grade												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Not Rep.
		Reading												
Total	92	1	2	5	9	15	16	10	5	3	6			20
1														
2	5		2	1	2									
3	4			2			2							
4	3				1	2								
5	15				5	5	3	2						
6	15			1		6	3	4	1					
7	14				1	1	4	3		2	3			1
8	11					1	2	1	3	1	2			
9	10													10
10	6													6
11														
12														
UK	9	1		1			2		1		1			3
		Arithmetic												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	N.R.
Total	92	0	3	4	9	12	15	13	8	3	6			20
1														
2	5		1		4									
3	4			2	1		1							
4	3					1	1	1						
5	15		1	1	2	5	5		1					
6	15					5	3	3	4					
7	14				1		4	4	2	1	2			1
8	11				1	1		4		2	3			
9	10													10
10	6													6
11														
12														
UK	9		1	1			1	1	1		1			3

Reason for Commitment

The specific reason for commitment generally reflects the last and most serious offense committed by the juvenile. Juveniles committed to the correctional element of the program very often have long histories of delinquent behavior. Table VIII lists type of offenses given as reason for commitment to the institution at the time of admission.

The Montana Children's Center has the primary function . . . "to support and care of dependent or neglected children . . ., who require separation from their families or foster families or for whom foster care cannot be obtained.[1]" This institution's purpose and function is seen in the large percent committed for dependent or neglected reasons (79 percent boys; 86 percent girls).

The most frequent reason a boy was committed to the State Industrial School was burglary which constituted 34 percent of the cases. Auto theft accounted for 26 percent of those committed. Incorrigibility and dependency comprised 18 percent of the reasons for admission. In 63 percent of the cases of girls committed to the Vocational School the reasons were either incorrigibility or dependency. There were 17 percent committed for reason of larceny and theft including car theft.

TABLE VIII

OFFENSE	ALL COMMITTED CHILDREN		STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL		VOCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS		MONTANA CHILDREN'S CENTER			
							BOYS		GIRLS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	436	100	202	100	59	100	93	100	82	100
Murder	3	.7	3	1.5						
Robbery	4	.9	4	2.0						
Assault	5	1.1	5	2.5						
Burglary	5	1.2	69	34.1	2	3.4	4	4.3		
Larceny and Theft	35	8.0	17	8.4	6	10.1	9	9.7	3	3.7
Auto Theft	59	13.5	52	25.7	4	6.8	3	3.2		
Forgery	7	1.6	5	2.5	2	3.4				
Sex Offenses	6	1.4	5	2.5	1	1.7				
Liquor	3	.7	1	.5	2	3.4				
Arson	1	.3	1	.5						
Other Delinquency	8	1.8	3	1.5	4	6.8			1	1.2
Abandonment	1	.3							1	1.2
Incorrigible	59	13.5	31	15.3	15	25.4	9	9.7	4	4.9
Shelter	76	17.4					40	43.0	36	43.9
Dependency Reasons	82	18.8	6	3.0	22	37.3	24	25.8	30	36.6
Not Reported	12	2.8			1	1.7	4	4.3	7	8.5

1. Ibid. See 80-2101

Length of Stay at Institutions

The juveniles length of stay is dependent on the extent of the problems that required his commitment and the amount of preparation required in the community to prepare for the individuals return. The lack of aftercare services in the past contributed greatly to the length of stay. The length of stay is reported by sex and institution on Table IX.

Montana Children's Center with a median of 27 months has the longest length of stay. The juveniles committed to this center are primarily dependent or neglected children who have experienced years of neglect, abuse, or improper socialization. Months of therapy often are required to prepare a family for the return of their child or to find a suitable foster care program. Lack of progress in community programming contributes greatly to this length of stay.

The accumulated length of stay of wards at the State Industrial School on May 2, 1966, was 14.5 months and at the Vocational School for Girls it was 8.0 months.

TABLE IX

MONTHS	ALL COMMITTED CHILDREN		STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL		VOCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS		MONTANA CHILDREN'S CENTER			
							BOYS		GIRLS	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	436	100	202	100	59	100	93	100	82	100
0 - 3	58	13.3	25	12.4	14	23.7	11	11.8	8	9.8
4 - 6	55	12.6	30	14.8	12	20.3	8	8.6	5	6.1
7 - 9	43	9.9	23	11.4	10	16.9	4	4.3	6	7.3
10 - 12	29	6.7	13	6.4	8	13.6	5	5.4	3	3.7
13 - 15	31	7.1	21	10.4	7	11.9	1	1.1	2	2.4
16 - 18	20	4.6	8	4.0	4	6.8	3	3.2	5	6.1
19 - 21	19	4.4	9	4.4	2	3.4	4	4.3	4	4.9
22 - 24	32	7.3	20	9.9	-		7	7.5	5	6.1
25 - 27	20	4.6	11	5.4	-		5	5.4	4	4.9
28 - 30	15	3.4	10	4.9	1	1.7	3	3.2	1	1.2
31 - 33	11	2.5	3	1.5	-		6	6.5	2	2.4
34 - 36	10	2.3	7	3.5	1	1.7	1	1.1	1	1.2
37 - 39	15	3.4	7	3.5	-		3	3.2	5	6.1
40 - 42	14	3.2	2	1.0	-		5	5.4	7	8.5
43 - 45	4	.9	1	.5	-		2	2.1	1	1.2
46 - 49	6	1.4	5	2.5	-		-		1	1.2
50	54	12.4	7	3.5	-		25	26.9	22	26.9
Median	16.3		14.5		8.0		27.1		27.3	

Profile of a Resident of The State Industrial School

Home

1. Resident at current address less than 5 years. (13.4%)

2. Had foster home placement. (17.8%)

3. Home ties broken before age 9. (48.0%)

Parents

1. Natural parents are either unmarried, divorced, separated or the marriage broken by death. (62.9%)

2. Family members having a record of criminality or delinquency. In 35.6% of the cases, siblings were delinquent; 11.4% of the fathers and 4.0% of the mothers have delinquent histories.

School

1. Attitude toward school ranged from "indifferent" to "markedly dislikes". (78.7%)

2. Serious or persistent school misbehavior. (53.5%)

3. His mental ability was judged normal (54.6%) with 16.8% rated above normal and 28.6% rated below normal.

Church

1. Attends church occasionally or often. (93.6%)

2. Was of Catholic faith. (47.0%)

3. Was of Protestant faith. (53.0%)

Delinquent Behavior

1. Has a problem with excessive drinking. (31.2%)

2. His current offense was committed with one or more partners. (65.3%) 31.7% of the cases committed their offenses alone.

3. The most common committed offenses were burglary, auto theft.

4. 18% were committed for dependency reasons.

5. His median age at first commitment to the institution was 15.2 years.

Profile of a Resident of the Vocational School for Girls

Home

1. Resident at current address less than 5 years. (57.6%)

2. Had foster home placement. (18.6%)

3. Home ties broken before age 9. (25.4%)

Parents

1. Natural parents are either unmarried, divorced, separated or marriage broken by death. (71.1%)

2. Family members having a record of criminality or delinquency. In 55.9% of the cases, siblings were delinquent; 32.2% of the fathers and 27.1% of the mothers have delinquent histories.

School

1. Attitude toward school ranged from "indifferent" to "markedly dislikes". (35.6%)

2. Serious or persistent school misbehavior. (91.5%)

3. Her mental ability was judged normal (54.2%) with 6.8% rated above normal and 25.4% rated below normal.

Church

1. Attends church occasionally or often. (84.7%)

2. Was of Catholic faith. (59.3%)

3. Was of Protestant faith. (40.7%)

Delinquent Behavior

1. Has a problem with excessive drinking. (32.2%)

2. Her current offense was committed with one or more partners. (40.7%) 40.0% of the cases committed their offenses alone.

3. The most common committed offenses were larceny, theft and auto theft.

4. 63% were committed for dependency reasons.

5. Her median age at first commitment to the institution was 15.3 years.

Profile of a Resident of the Montana Children's Center

BOYS

Home

1. Resident at current address less than 5 years. (15.1%)

2. Had foster home placement. (18.3%)

3. Home ties broken before age 9. (46.2%)

Parents

1. Natural parents are either unmarried, divorced, separated or marriage broken by death. (68.8%)

2. Family members having a record of criminality or delinquency. In 10.8% of the cases, siblings were delinquent. 21.5% of the fathers and 20.4% of the mothers have delinquent histories.

School

1. Attitude toward school ranged from "indifferent" to "markedly dislikes". (35.9%)

2. Serious or persistent school misbehavior. (31.1%)

3. His mental ability was judged normal (52.7%) with 4.3% rated above normal and 40.9% rated below normal.

Church

1. Attends church occasionally or often. (80.6%)

2. Was of Catholic faith. (53.8%)

3. Was of Protestant faith. (46.2%)

Reason for Commitment

1. His median age at first commitment to the institution was 10.1 years.

2. The most common reasons for commitment were shelter and dependency reasons.

Profile of a Resident of the Montana Children's Center

GIRLS

Home

1. Resident at current address less than 5 years. (23.2%)

2. Had foster home placement. (32.9%)

3. Home ties broken before age 9. (56.1%)

Parents

1. Natural parents are either unmarried, divorced, separated or marriage broken by death. (71.9%)

2. Family members having a record of criminality or delinquency. In 2.4% of the cases, siblings were delinquent; 20.0% of the fathers and 22.0% of the mothers have delinquent histories.

School

1. Attitude toward school ranged from "indifferent" to "markedly dislikes". (19.5%)

2. Serious or persistent school misbehavior. (14.6%)

3. Her mental ability was judged normal (58.5%) with 7.3% rated above normal and 28.1% rated below normal.

Church

1. Attends church occasionally or often. (91.5%)

2. Was of Catholic faith. (57.3%)

3. Was of Protestant faith. (42.7%)

Reason for Commitment

1. Her median age at first commitment to the institution was 11.5 years.

2. The most common reasons for commitment were shelter and dependency reasons.